

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 31, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised which require further consideration or search. Claims 1-5 and 8-10 are respectfully submitted for consideration. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found on page 8, lines 8-18.

To clarify any contradictory assertions, claims 6 and 7 were indeed cancelled. Accordingly, Examiner correctly considered only the claims listed in the clean copy (1-5 and 8-10).

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art (APA) in view of Bissell et al. (Bissell), (U.S. Patent 6,574, 730 B1). The Official Action took the position that the APA disclosed all of the elements of the claimed invention, specifically the wireless local loop system, with the exception of carrying out the checking functions after voice mode has been set. Bissell was cited as teaching that authentication can be carried out after a dial tone. Therefore, the Official Action took the position that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine APA and Bissell to yield the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-5 and 8-10 are dependant, recites a procedure for setting up a call in a wireless local loop based on mobile communications technology and in which subscriber terminal units are connected via a radio link to an access node and from the access node to a wired network local exchange and in which checking functions are carried out to accelerate call setup. The procedure comprises checking functions that are carried out at a beginning of voice mode after ring-back tone has been received from the local exchange.

As discussed in the specification on page 8, the voice mode begins after a CONNECT message is sent to the subscriber terminal unit and the terminal unit responds by sending a CONNECT_ACK message. Ring-back tone is then received from the local exchange, indicating the beginning of voice mode to the caller. Therefore, the checking functions are carried out at the beginning of voice mode but only after ring-back tone has been received from the local exchange. This configuration accelerates call setup such that unnecessary time-outs and needless disconnections are avoided. In addition, the time available for the signaling that is needed for call setup is increased. It is respectfully submitted that the APA and Bissell fail to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the presently pending claims.

The APA discloses a standard for a wireless local loop where a terminal unit is connected via a wireless link to an access node. During call setup in a wireless local

loop, various checking functions must be conducted to insure network security. The checking operations as defined by the APA hinder the call setup process resulting in time-outs and disconnections. As acknowledged by the Office Action, however, the APA does not teach the performance of the checking functions after voice mode has been set and thus the Office Action also cites Bissell.

Bissell mentions three instances for introducing an authentication sequence once dial tone has been received (Bissell col. 8, lines 27-35). First, Bissell describes the possibility of introducing an authentication sequence after dialing but before a ringing tone. Since a ringing tone is activated prior to voice mode, Bissell is teaching authentication prior to voice mode. Moreover, this instance described by Bissell leads away from the recitation of the claimed invention which specifically states that checking functions are carried out after ring-back tone has been received (*W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540).

A second instance described by Bissell is introducing the authentication sequence via a register recall function at some point. This option is not specific to the current claims. The third instance mentioned by Bissell is to introduce the authentication sequence at call termination. This instance does not correspond to claim 1, which states that checking functions occur at the beginning of voice mode rather than at call termination.

The options for introducing an authentication sequence discussed in Bissell are not comparable to the claimed invention. Bissell fails to teach or suggest carrying out

checking functions at the beginning of voice mode after ring-back tone has been received from the local exchange. As amended, claim 1 states that checking functions are carried out at a beginning of voice mode after ring-back tone has been received form the local exchange. Instead, Bissell teaches that the checking functions are carried out before ring-back tone. Applicants respectfully submit that Bissell, when viewed alone, or when combined with APA, cannot be reasonably interpreted as disclosing or suggesting the claimed invention.

The claimed invention introduces the checking functions in a manner that produces significant advantages over the prior art. This results in an elimination of the difficulties associated with time-outs in the PSTN protocol in the V5 interface of a wireless local loop system. These time-outs cause problems during call setup in the wireless local loop system. For example, in the case of a terminating call, the time-out according to the V5 PSTN protocol between the start message and the acknowledgement message (when the telephone rings) is a maximum of 4 seconds. The claimed invention, however, allows accelerating call setup such that unnecessary tripping of time-outs and disconnection of calls are avoided. In addition, the time available for the signaling required for the call setup is increased.

As mentioned previously, the Official Action took the position that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine APA and Bissell to yield the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of APA and Bissell fail to disclose or suggest critical and important elements of the independent

claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that any rejection of amended claim 1 over the cited prior art would be improper and should not be proffered.

It is further submitted that claims 2-5 and 8-10 depend from claim 1 and thus should be allowed for at least their dependence on claim 1. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-5 and 8-10 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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